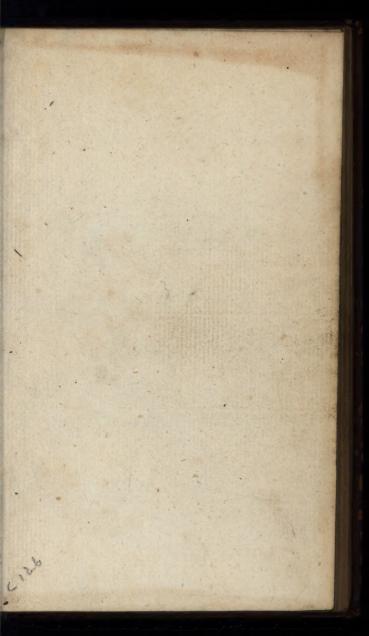
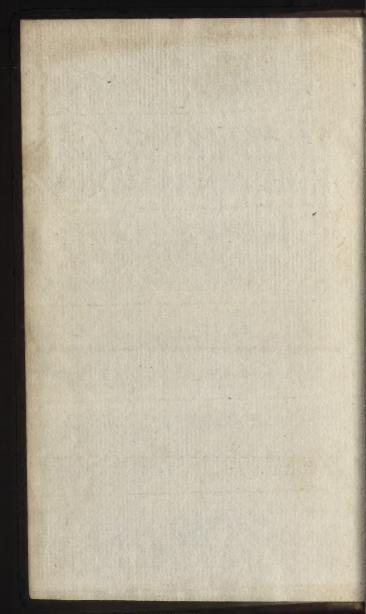
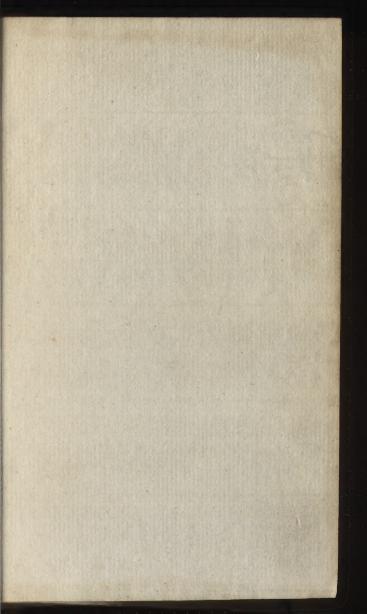


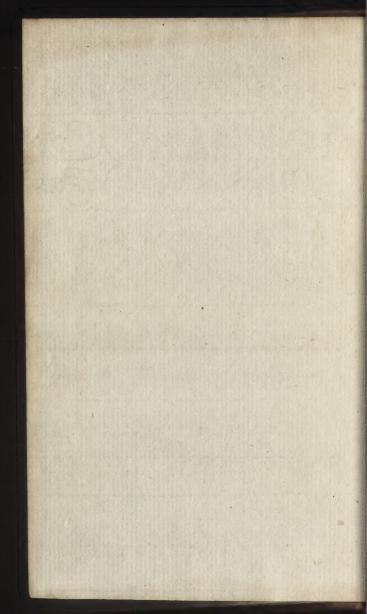


Ulrich Middeldorf









THE

PLEASURES

O F

MEMORY,

&c.

RUEABUR

T H E

PLEASURES

OF

MEMORY.

THE FIFTH EDITION.

WITH SOME OTHER

POEMS.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR T. CADELL, IN THE STRAND; AND C. DILLY, IN THE POULTRY.

MDCCXCIII.

PLEASURES

MEMORY

THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF

MINES RESERVED

PORMS

ROSEON

MINTER TOR S. COURS. TRITER CRANIST AND CONTRACTOR AND CONTRACTORS.

ALLS MOTTER

OH could my Mind, unfolded in my page, Enlighten climes and mould a future age! There as it glow'd, with noblest frenzy fraught, Dispense the treasures of exalted thought; To Virtue wake the pulses of the heart, And bid the tear of Emulation flart! Oh could it still, thro' each succeeding year, My life, my manners, and my name endear; And, when the poet sleeps in filent dust, Still hold communion with the wife and just!-Yet should this Verse, my leifure's best resource, When thro' the world it steals its fecret course,

Revive but once a generous wish suppress,

Chase but a sigh, or charm a care to rest;

In one good deed a sleeting hour employ,

Or slush one saded cheek with honest joy;

Blest were my lines, the limited their sphere,

The short their date, as his who trac'd them here.

S. R.

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T H E

PLEASURES

O F

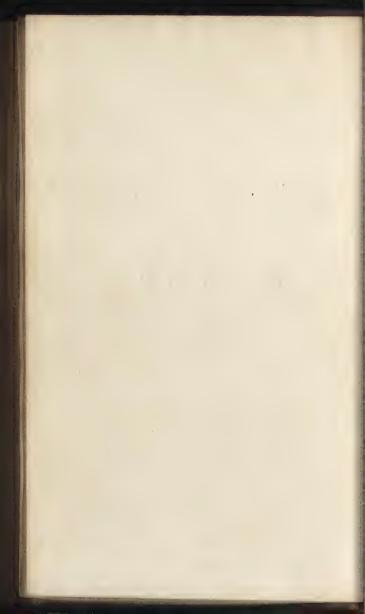
MEMORY,

IN TWO PARTS.

Hoc eft

Vivere bis, vitâ posse priore frui.

MART.



THE

PLEASURES

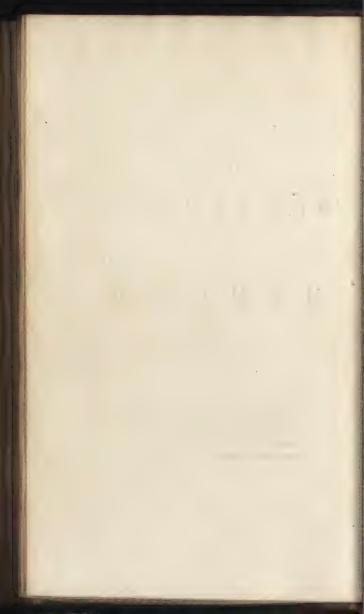
O F

MEMORY.

PART I.

Dolce sentier,—
Colle, che mi piacesti,—
Ov' ancor per usanza Amor mi mena;
Ben riconosco in voi l'usate forme,
Non, lasso, in me.

PETRARCH.



ANALYSIS

OF THE

FIRST PART.

THE Poem begins with the description of an obscure village, and of the pleasing melancholy which it excites on being revisited after a long absence. This mixed sensation is an effect of the Memory. From an effect we naturally ascend to the cause; and the subject proposed is then unfolded with an investigation of the nature and leading principles of this faculty.

It is evident that there is a continued fuccession of ideas in the mind, and that they introduce each other with a certain degree of regularity. Their complexion depends greatly on the different perceptions of pleasure and pain which we receive through the medium of sense; and, in return, they have a considerable influence on the animal economy.

They are fometimes excited by fensible objects, and fometimes by an internal operation of the mind. Of the former species is most probably the memory of brutes; and its many sources of pleafure to them, as well as to ourselves, are considered in the first part. The latter is the most persect degree of memory, and forms the subject of the second.

When ideas have any relation whatever, they are attractive of each other in the mind; and the perception of any object naturally leads to the idea of another which was connected with it either in time or place, or which can be compared or contrasted with it. Hence arises our attachment to inanimate objects; hence also, in some degree, the love of our country, and the emotion with which we contemplate the celebrated fcenes of antiquity. Hence a picture directs our thoughts to the original: and, as cold and darkness suggest forcibly the ideas of heat and light, he, who feels the infirmities of age, dwells most on whatever reminds him of the vigour and vivacity of his youth.

The affociating principle, as here employed, is no less conducive to virtue than to happiness; and, as such, it frequently discovers itself in the most tumultuous scenes of life. It addresses our finer feelings, and gives exercise to every mild and generous propensity.

Not confined to man, it extends through all animated nature; and its effects are peculiarly flriking in the domestic tribes.

PLEASURES

O F

MEMORY.

PART I.

TWILIGHT's foft dews stead o'er the village-green,
With magic tints to harmonize the scene.
Still'd is the hum that thro' the hamlet broke,
When round the ruins of their ancient oak
The peafants flock'd to hear the minstrel play,

And games and carols clos'd the busy day.

Her wheel at rest, the matron charms no more

With treasur'd tales of legendary lore.

All, all are sled; nor mirth nor music flows

To chase the dreams of innocent repose.

All, all are sled; yet still I linger here!

What pensive sweets this silent spot endear?

Mark you old Mansion, frowning thro' the trees,
Whose hollow turret wooes the whistling breeze.
That casement, arch'd with ivy's brownest shade, 15
First to these eyes the light of heav'n convey'd.
The mouldering gateway strews the grass-grown court,
Once the calm scene of many a simple sport;
When nature pleas'd, for life itself was new,
And the heart promis'd what the fancy drew.

See, thro' the fractur'd pediment reveal'd,
Where moss inlays the rudely-sculptur'd shield,
The martin's old, hereditary nest.
Long may the ruin spare its hallow'd guest!

As jars the hinge, what fullen echoes call! 25
Oh haste, unfold the hospitable hall!
That hall, where once, in antiquated state,
The chair of justice held the grave debate.

Now stain'd with dews, with cobwebs darkly hung,
Oft has its roof with peals of rapture rung; 30
When round you ample board, in due degree,
We sweeten'd every meal with social glee.
'The heart's light laughter crown'd the circling jest;
And all was sunshine in each little breast.

'Twas here we chas'd the slipper by its sound; 35
And turn'd the blindfold hero round and round.
'Twas here, at eve, we form'd our fairy ring;
And Fancy slutter'd on her wildest wing.
Giants and genii chain'd the wondering ear;
And orphan-woes drew Nature's ready tear.

Oft with the babes we wander'd in the wood,
Or view'd the forest-seats of Robin Hood:
Oft, fancy-led, at midnight's fearful hour,
With startling step we scal'd the lonely tower;
O'er infant innocence to hang and weep,

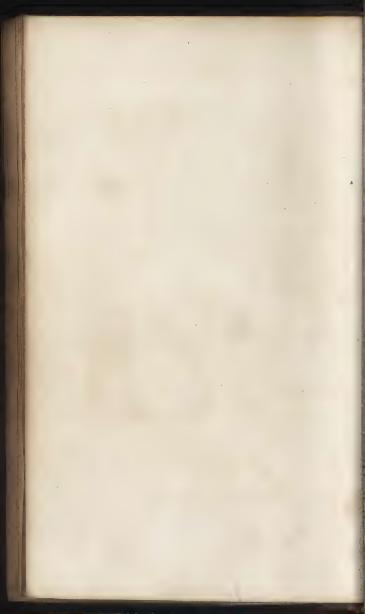
45
Murder'd by russian hands, when smiling in its sleep.

Ye Household Deities! whose guardian eye
Mark'd each pure thought, ere register'd on high;
Still, still ye walk the consecrated ground,
And breathe the soul of Inspiration round.



Twas here we chasil the slipper by its sound .

Published May 29th 1793.by T. Cadell Strand.



As o'er the dusky furniture I bend, Each chair awakes the feelings of a friend. The storied arras, fource of fond delight, With old achievement charms the wilder'd fight; And still, with Heraldry's rich hues imprest, 55 On the dim window glows the pictur'd crest. The screen unfolds its many-colour'd chart. The clock still points its moral to the heart. That faithful monitor 'twas heav'n to hear! When fost it spoke a promis'd pleasure near: 60 And has its fober hand, its fimple chime, Forgot to trace the feather'd feet of Time? That massive beam, with curious carvings wrought, Whence the caged linnet footh'd my pensive thought; Those muskets cas'd with venerable rust; Those once-lov'd forms, still breathing thro' their dust, Still from the frame, in mould gigantic cast, Starting to life—all whisper of the past!

As thro' the garden's defert paths I rove, What fond illusions swarm in every grove! 70 How oft, when purple evening ting'd the west, We watch'd the emmet to her grainy nest; Welcom'd the wild-bee home on wearied wing, Laden with fweets, the choicest of the spring! How oft inscrib'd, with Friendship's votive rhyme, 75 'The bark now filver'd by the touch of 'Time; Soar'd in the fwing, half pleas'd and half afraid, Thro' fister elms that wav'd their summer-shade; Or strew'd with crumbs you root-inwoven feat, To lure the redbreast from his lone retreat!

Childhood's lov'd group revisits every scene, The tangled wood-walk, and the tufted green! Indulgent Memory wakes, and, lo! they live! Cloth'd with far fofter hues than Light can give. Thou last, best friend that Heav'n assigns below, 85 To footh and fweeten all the cares we know: Whose glad suggestions still each vain alarm, When nature fades, and life forgets to charm; Thee would the Muse invoke!-to thee belong The fage's precept, and the poet's fong. . 90 What foften'd views thy magic glass reveals, When o'er the landscape Time's meek twilight steals! As when in ocean finks the orb of day, Long on the wave reflected luftres play; Thy temper'd gleams of happiness resign'd 95. Glance on the darken'd mirror of the mind.

The School's lone porch, with reverend mosses gray,
Just tells the pensive pilgrim where it lay.

Mute is the bell that rung at peep of dawn,
Quickening my truant-feet across the lawn; 100
Unheard the shout that rent the noontide air,
When the slow dial gave a pause to care.

Up springs, at every step, to claim a tear,
Some little friendship form'd and cherish'd here!

And not the lightest leaf, but trembling teems 105
With golden visions, and romantic dreams!

Down by yon hazel copfe, at evening, blaz'd
The Gipfy's faggot—there we stood and gaz'd;
Gaz'd on her fun-burnt face with silent awe,
Her tatter'd mantle, and her hood of straw;
Her moving lips, her caldron brimming o'er;
The drowfy brood that on her back she bore;

Imps, in the barn with moufing owlet bred,
From rifled rooft at nightly revel fed;
Whosedark eyes flash'd thro'locks of blackest shade, 115
When in the breeze the distant watch-dog bay'd:—
And heroes fled the Sybil's mutter'd call,
Whose elsin prowess scal'd the orchard-wall.
As o'er my palm the silver piece she drew,
And trac'd the line of life with searching view, 120
How throbb'd my fluttering pulse with hopes and fears,
To learn the colour of my future years!

Ah, then, what honest triumph slush'd my breast!

This truth once known—To bless is to be blest!

We led the bending beggar on his way;

(Bare were his feet, his tresses silver-gray)

Sooth'd the keen pangs his aged spirit felt,

And on his tale with mute attention dwelt.

As in his fcrip we dropt our little ftore,

And wept to think that little was no more,

130

He breath'd his prayer, "Long may fuch goodness
live!"

'Twas all he gave, 'twas all he had to give.

But hark! thro' those old firs, with sullen swell.

The church-clock strikes! ye tender scenes, farewell!

It calls me hence, beneath their shade, to trace 135

The few fond lines that Time may soon essage.

On you gray stone, that fronts the chancel-door,
Worn smooth by busy feet now seen no more,
Each eve we shot the marble thro' the ring,
When the heart danc'd, and life was in its spring; 140
Alas! unconscious of the kindred earth,
That faintly echoed to the voice of mirth.

The glow-worm loves her emerald light to shed,
Where now the fexton rests his hoary head.
Oft, as he turn'd the greensward with his spade, 145
He lectur'd every youth that round him play'd;
And, calmly pointing where his fathers lay,
Rous'd him to rival each, the hero of his day.

Hush, ye fond flutterings, hush! while here alone
I fearch the records of each mouldering stone. 150
Guides of my life! Instructors of my youth!
Who first unveil'd the hallow'd form of 'Truth;
Whose every word enlighten'd and endear'd;
In age belov'd, in poverty rever'd;
In Friendship's silent register ye live, 155
Nor ask the vain memorial Art can give.

But when the fons of peace and pleasure sleep,
When only Sorrow wakes, and wakes to weep,
What spells entrance my visionary mind,
With sighs fo sweet, with raptures fo refin'd? 160

Ethereal Power! whose smile, at noon of night,

Recalls the far-sled spirit of delight;

Instils that musing, melancholy mood,

Which charms the wise, and elevates the good;

Blest Memory, hail! Oh, grant the grateful Muse, 165

Her pencil dipt in Nature's living hues,

To pass the clouds that round thy empire roll,

And trace its airy precincts in the soul.

Lull'd in the countless chambers of the brain,
Our thoughts are link'd by many a hidden chain. 170

Awake but one, and lo, what myriads rife! Each stamps its image as the other flies! Each, as the varied avenues of fense Delight or forrow to the foul dispense, Brightens or fades; yet all, with magic art, 175 Controul the latent fibres of the heart. As studious PROSPERO's mysterious spell Conven'd the subject-spirits to his cell; Each, at thy call, advances or retires, As judgment dictates, or the scene inspires. 180 Each thrills the feat of fense, that facred source, Whence the fine nerves direct their mazy course, And thro' the frame invisibly convey

C

The fubtle, quick vibrations as they play.

Survey the globe, each ruder realm explore; 185
From Reason's faintest ray to Newton soar.
What different spheres to human bliss assign'd!
What slow gradations in the scale of mind!
Yet mark in each these mystic wonders wrought;
Oh mark the sleepless energies of thought!

The adventurous boy, that asks his little share,
And hies from home, with many a gossip's prayer,
Turns on the neighbouring hill, once more to see
The dear abode of peace and privacy;
And as he turns, the thatch among the trees, 195
The smoke's blue wreaths ascending with the breeze,
The village-common spotted white with sheep,
The churchyard yews round which his fathers sleep;

All rouse Reflection's fadly-pleasing train,

And oft he looks and weeps, and looks again. 200

So, when the daring fons of Science drew 1

The mild Tupla's firm yet fond adieu

To all his foul best lov'd, such tears he shed,

While each soft scene of summer-beauty sled:

Long o'er the wave a wistful look he cast, 205

Long watch'd the streaming signal from the mast;

Till twilight's dewy tints deceiv'd his eye,

And fairy forests fring'd the evening sky.

So Scotia's Queen, as flowly dawn'd the day, 2
Rose on her couch, and gaz'd her soul away. 210
Her eyes had bless'd the beacon's glimmering height,
That faintly tipt the seathery surge with light;

But now the morn with orient hues pourtray'd

Each castled cliff, and brown monastic shade:

All touch'd the talisman's resistless spring,

215

And lo, what busy tribes were instant on the wing!

As kindred objects kindred thoughts excite, 3

Thefe, with magnetic virtue, foon unite.

And hence this fpot gives back the joys of youth,

Warm as the life, and with the mirror's truth. 220

Hence home-felt pleafure prompts the Patriot's figh;

This makes him wish to live, and dare to die.

For this Foscari, whose relentless fate 4

Venice should blush to hear the Muse relate,

When exile wore his blooming years away, 225

To forrow's long soliloquies a prey,

When reason, justice, vainly urg'd his cause,

For this he rous'd her sanguinary laws;

Glad to return, tho' Hope could grant no more,

And chains and torture hail'd him to the shore. 230

And hence the charm historic scenes impart: Hence Tiber awes, and Avon melts the heart. Aërial forms, in Tempe's classic vale, Glance thro' the gloom, and whifper in the gale; In wild Vaucluse with love and LAURA dwell, 235 And watch and weep in ELOISA's cell. 5 'Twas ever thus. As now at VIRGIL's tomb, 6 We bless the shade, and bid the verdure bloom: So Tully paus'd, amid the wrecks of Time, 7 On the rude stone to trace the truth sublime; 240 When at his feet, in honour'd dust disclos'd, The immortal Sage of Syracuse repos'd. And as his youth in fweet delufion hung, Where once a PLATO taught, a PINDAR fung;

Who now but meets him musing, when he roves 245 His ruin'd Tusculan's romantic groves?

In Rome's great forum, who but hears him roll

His moral thunders o'er the subject soul?

And hence that calm delight the portrait gives: We gaze on every feature till it lives! 250 Still the fond lover views the absent maid: And the lost friend still lingers in his shade! Say why the penfive widow loves to weep, 8 When on her knee she rocks her babe to sleep: Tremblingly still, she lifts his veil to trace 255 The father's features in his infant face. The hoary grandfire fmiles the hour away, Won by the charm of Innocence at play; He bends to catch each artless burst of joy, Forgets his age, and acts again the boy. 260

What tho' the iron school of War erase Each milder virtue, and each fofter grace; What tho' the fiend's torpedo-touch arrest Each gentler, finer impulse of the breast; Still shall this active principle preside, And wake the tear to Pity's felf denied.

265

The intrepid Swiss, that guards a foreign shore, Condemn'd to climb his mountain-cliffs no more, If chance he hears the fong fo fweetly wild 9 Which on those cliffs his infant hours beguil'd, 270 Melts at the long-lost scenes that round him rise, And finks a martyr to repentant fighs.

Ask not if courts or camps dissolve the charm: Say why VESPASIAN lov'd his Sabine farm;10

Why great NAVARRE, when France and freedom bled, 11

Sought the lone limits of a forest-shed.

When Drocletian's self-corrected mind 12
The imperial sasces of a world resign'd,
Say why we trace the labours of his spade,
In calm Salona's philosophic shade. 280
Say, when ambitious Charles renounc'd a throne, 13
To muse with monks unletter'd and unknown,
What from his soul the parting tribute drew?
What claim'd the forrows of a last adieu?
The still retreats that sooth'd his tranquil breast, 285
Ere grandeur dazzled, and its cares oppress'd.

Undamp'd by time, the generous Instinct glows Far as Angola's fands, as Zembla's snows; Glows in the tiger's den, the ferpent's nest,

On every form of varied life imprest. 290

The focial tribes its choicest influence hail:—

And, when the drum beats briskly in the gale,

The war-worn courser charges at the sound,

And with young vigour wheels the pasture round.

Oft has the aged tenant of the vale

Lean'd on his staff to lengthen out the tale;

Oft have his lips the grateful tribute breath'd,

From fire to son with pious zeal bequeath'd.

When o'er the blasted heath the day declin'd,

And on the scath'd oak warr'd the winter wind;

When not a distant taper's twinkling ray

Gleam'd o'er the furze to light him on his way;

When not a sheep-bell sooth'd his listening ear,

And the big rain-drops told the tempest near;

Then did his horse the homeward track descry, 14 305
The track that shunn'd his sad, inquiring eye;
And win each wavering purpose to relent,
With warmth so mild, so gently violent,
That his charm'd hand the careless rein resign'd,
And doubts and terrors vanish'd from his mind. 310

Recall the traveller, whose alter'd form

Has borne the buffet of the mountain-storm;

And who will first his fond impatience meet?

His faithful dog's already at his feet!

Yes, tho the porter spurn him from his door,

Tho' all, that knew him, know his face no more,

His faithful dog shall tell his joy to each,

With that mute eloquence which passes speech.

And see, the master but returns to die!

Yet who shall bid the watchful servant sty?

The blafts of heav'n, the drenching dews of earth, 'The wanton infults of unfeeling mirth;

Thefe, when to guard Misfortune's facred grave,

Will firm Fidelity exult to brave.

Led by what chart, transports the timid dove 325
The wreaths of conquest, or the vows of love?
Say, thro' the clouds what compass points her slight?
Monarchs have gaz'd, and nations bless'd the sight.
Pile rocks on rocks, bid woods and mountains rise,
Eclipse her native shades, her native skies;— 330
Tis vain! thro' Ether's pathless wilds she goes,
And lights at last where all her cares repose.

Sweet bird! thy truth shall Harlem's walls attest, 15

And unborn ages confectate thy nest.

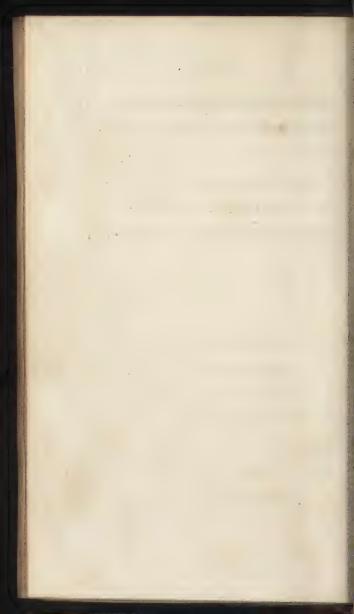
When with the filent energy of grief,

335
With looks that ask'd, yet dar'd not hope relief,
Want, with her babes, round generous Valour clung,
To wring the flow furrender from his tongue,
'Twas thine to animate her closing eye;
Alas! 'twas thine perchance the first to die, 340
Crush'd by her meagre hand, when welcom'd from the sky.

Hark! the bee winds her small but mellow horn, 16
Blithe to salute the sunny smile of morn.
O'er thymy downs she bends her busy course,
And many a stream allures her to its source. 345
'Tis noon, 'tis night. That eye so sinely wrought,
Beyond the search of sense, the soar of thought,
Now vainly asks the scenes she left behind:
Its orb so full, its vision so confin'd!

Who guides the patient pilgrim to her cell? 350
Who bids her foul with confcious triumph fwell?
With confcious truth retrace the mazy clue
Of varied fcents, that charm'd her as she flew?
Hail, Memory, hail! thy universal reign
Guards the least link of Being's glorious chain. 355

THE END OF THE FIRST PART.



T H E

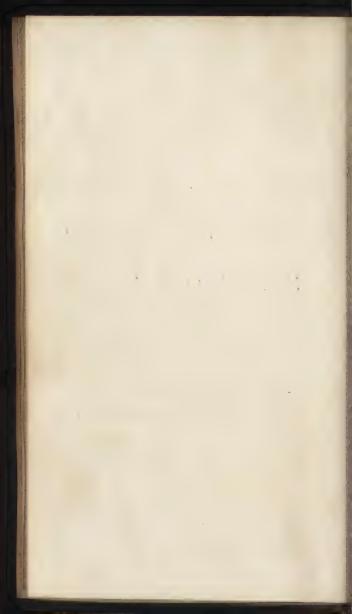
PLEASURES

o F

MEMORY.

PART II.

——Degli anni e de l'obblio nemica, Delle cofe custode, e dispensiera. Tasso,



ANALYSIS

OF THE

SECOND PART.

THE Memory has hitherto acted only in subservience to the senses, and so far man is not eminently distinguished from other animals: but, with respect to man, she has a higher province; and is often busily employed, when excited by no external cause whatever. She preserves, for his use, the treasures of art and science, history and philoso-

phy. She colours all the prospects of life: for we can only anticipate the future, by concluding what is possible from what is past.' On her agency depends every effusion of the Fancy, whose boldest effort can only compound or transpose, augment or diminish the materials which she has collected and retained.

When the first emotions of despair have subsided, and forrow has softened into melancholy, she amuses with a retrospect of innocent pleasures, and inspires that noble considence which results from the consciousness of having acted well. When sleep has suspended the organs of sense from their office, she not only supplies the mind with images, but assists in their combination.

And even in madness itself, when the soul is refigned over to the tyranny of a distempered imagination, she revives past perceptions, and awakens that train of thought which was formerly most familiar.

Nor are we pleafed only with a review of the brighter passages of life; events, the most distressing in their immediate consequences, are often cherished in remembrance with a degree of enthusiasm.

But the world and its occupations give a mechanical impulse to the passions, which is not very favourable to the indulgence of this feeling. It is in a calm and well-regulated mind that the Memory

is most perfect; and solitude is her best sphere of action. With this sentiment is introduced a Tale, illustrative of her influence in solitude, sickness, and sorrow. And the subject having now been considered, so far as it relates to man and the animal world, the Poem concludes with a conjecture, that superior beings are blest with a nobler exercise of this faculty,

PLEASURES

OF

MEMORY.

PART II.

SWEET Memory, wasted by thy gentle gale,
Oft up the tide of Time I turn my fail,
To view the fairy-haunts of long-lost hours,
Blest with far greener shades, far fresher slowers.

Ages and climes remote to Thee impart
What charms in Genius, and refines in Art;

Thee, in whose hand the keys of Science dwell,

The pensive portress of her holy cell;

Whose constant vigils chase the chilling damp

Oblivion steals upon her vestal-lamp.

The friends of Reason, and the guides of Youth,
Whose language breath'd the eloquence of Truth;
Whose life, beyond preceptive wisdom, taught
The great in conduct, and the pure in thought;
These still exist, by Thee to Fame consign'd, 15
Still speak and act, the models of mankind.

From Thee fweet Hope her airy colouring draws;
And Fancy's flights are subject to thy laws.
From Thee that bosom-spring of rapture flows,
Which only Virtue, tranquil Virtue, knows. 20

When Joy's bright fun has shed his evening-ray,
And Hope's delusive meteors cease to play;
When clouds on clouds the smiling prospect close,
Still thro' the gloom thy star serenely glows:
Like yon fair orb, she gilds the brow of night 25
With the mild magic of resected light.

The beauteous maid, that bids the world adieu,
Oft of that world will fnatch a fond review;
Oft at the shrine neglect her beads, to trace
Some focial scene, some dear, familiar face,
30
Forgot, when first a father's stern controul
Chas'd the gay visions of her opening soul:
And ere, with iron tongue, the vesper-bell
Bursts thro' the cypress-walk, the convent-cell,
Oft will her warm and wayward heart revive,
35
To love and joy still tremblingly alive;

The whisper'd vow, the chaste cares prolong,

Weave the light dance, and swell the choral song;

With rapt ear drink the enchanting serenade,

And, as it melts along the moonlight-glade,

To each soft note return as soft a sigh,

And bless the youth that bids her slumbers sly.

But not till Time has calm'd the ruffled breaft,
Are these fond dreams of happiness confest.

Not till the rushing winds forget to rave,

45
Is heav'n's sweet smile reslected on the wave.

From Guinea's coast pursue the lessening fail,
And catch the sounds that sadden every gale.
Tell, if thou canst, the sum of sorrows there;
Mark the fixt gaze, the wild and frenzied glare, 50
The racks of thought, and freezings of despair!

But pause not then—beyond the western wave,
Go, view the captive barter'd as a slave!
Crush'd till his high, heroic spirit bleeds,
And from his nerveless frame indignantly recedes. 55

Yet here, ev'n here, with pleasures long resign'd,

Lo! Memory bursts the twilight of the mind:

Her dear delusions sooth his sinking soul,

When the rude scourge presumes its base controul;

And o'er Futurity's blank page dissure 60

The full reslection of their vivid hues.

'Tis but to die, and then, to weep no more,

Then will he wake on Congo's distant shore;

Beneath his plantain's ancient shade, renew

The simple transports that with freedom slew; 65

Catch the cool breeze that musky Evening blows,

And quast the palm's rich nectar as it glows;

The oral tale of elder time rehearse,

And chant the rude, traditionary verse;

With those, the lov'd companions of his youth, 70

When life was luxury, and friendship truth.

Ah! why should Virtue dread the frowns of Fate?

Hers what no wealth can win, no power create!

A little world of clear and cloudless day,

Nor wreck d by storms, nor moulder'd by decay; 75

A world, with Memory's ceaseless sun-shine blest,

The home of Happiness, an honest breast.

But most we mark the wonders of her reign,
When Sleep has lock'd the fenses in her chain.
When sober Judgment has his throne resign'd,
So She smiles away the chaos of the mind;

And, as warm Fancy's bright Elyfium glows,
From Her each image springs, each colour flows.
She is the facred guest! the immortal friend!
Oft seen o'er sleeping Innocence to bend,
85
In that dead hour of night to Silence giv'n,
Whispering seraphic visions of her heav'n.

When the blithe fon of Savoy, roving round
With humble wares and pipe of merry found,
From his green vale and shelter'd cabin hies,
90
And scales the Alps to visit foreign skies;
Tho' far below the forked lightnings play,
And at his feet the thunder dies away,
Oft, in the saddle rudely rock'd to sleep,
While his mule browses on the dizzy steep,
95
With Memory's aid, he sits at home, and sees
His children sport beneath their native trees,

And bends, to hear their cherub-voices call,

O'er the loud fury of the torrent's fall.

But can her smile with gloomy Madness dwell? 100 Say, can she chase the horrors of his cell? Each fiery flight on Frenzy's wing restrain, And mould the coinage of the fever'd brain? Pass but that grate, which scarce a gleam supplies, There in the dust the wreck of Genius lies! He, whose arresting hand sublimely wrought Each bold conception in the fphere of thought: Who from the quarried mass, like PHIDIAS, drew Forms ever fair, creations ever new! But, as he fondly fnatch'd the wreath of Fame, 110 The spectre Poverty unnerv'd his frame. Cold was her grafp, a withering fcowl she wore; And Hope's foft energies were felt no more.

Yet fill how fweet the foothings of his art! 17

From the rude stone what bright ideas start! 115

Ev'n now he claims the amaranthine wreath,

With scenes that glow, with images that breathe!

And whence these scenes, these images, declare.

Whence but from Her who triumphs o'er despair?

Awake, arife! with grateful fervour fraught, 120
Go, fpring the mine of elevated thought.
He who, thro' Nature's various walk, furveys
The good and fair her faultless line pourtrays;
Whose mind, prophan'd by no unhallow'd guest,
Culls from the crowd the purest and the best; 125
May range, at will, bright Fancy's golden clime,
Or, musing, mount where Science sits sublime,
Or wake the spirit of departed Time.

Who acts thus wifely, mark the moral muse,

A blooming Eden in his life reviews!

So richly cultur'd every native grace,

Its scanty limits he forgets to trace:

But the fond fool, when evening shades the sky,

Turns but to start, and gazes but to sigh!

The weary waste, that lengthen'd as he ran,

135

Fades to a blank, and dwindles to a span!

Ah! who can tell the triumphs of the mind,
By truth illumin'd, and by taste resin'd?
When Age has quench'd the eye and clos'd the ear,
Still nerv'd for action in her native sphere,
140
Oft will she rise—with searching glance pursue
Some long-lov'd image vanish'd from her view;
Dart thro' the deep recesses of the past,
O'er dusky forms in chains of slumber cast;

With giant-grasp fling back the folds of night, 145
And snatch the faithless sugitive to light.

So thro' the grove the impatient mother flies,

Each funless glade, each secret pathway tries;

Till the light leaves the truant-boy disclose,

Long on the wood-moss stretch'd in sweet repose. 150

Nor yet to pleasing objects are confin'd

The filent feasts of the reflective mind.

Danger and death a dread delight inspire;

And the bald veteran glows with wonted fire,

When, richly bronz'd by many a summer-sun, 155

He counts his scars, and tells what deeds were done.

Go, with old Thames, view Chelsea's glorious pile; And ask the shatter'd hero, whence his smile? Go, view the splendid domes of Greenwich, go;

And own what raptures from Reslection slow. 160

Hail, nobleft structures imag'd in the wave!

A nation's grateful tribute to the brave.

Hail, bleft retreats from war and shipwreck, hail!

That oft arrest the wondering stranger's fail.

Long have ye heard the narratives of age, 165

The battle's havoc, and the tempest's rage;

Long have ye known Restection's genial ray

Gild the calm close of Valour's various day.

Time's fombrous touches foon correct the piece,
Mellow each tint, and bid each difcord cease: 170
A fofter tone of light pervades the whole,
And breathes a penfive languor o'er the foul.

Haft thou thro' Eden's wild-wood vales pursued 18

Each mountain-scene, magnificently rude;

To mark the sweet simplicity of life, 175

Far from the dim of Folly's idle strife:

Nor, with Attention's listed eye, rever'd

That modest stone which pious Pembroke rear'd;

Which still records, beyond the pencil's power,

The silent forrows of a parting hour; 180

Still to the musing pilgrim points the place,

Her sainted spirit most delights to trace?

Thus, with the manly glow of honest pride, 19
O'er his dead fon old Ormond nobly sigh'd.
Thus, thro' the gloom of Shenstone's fairy grove, 185
Maria's urn still breathes the voice of love.

As the stern grandeur of a Gothic tower Awes not fo deeply in its morning-hour, As when the shades of Time serenely fall On every broken arch and ivied wall; 190 The tender images we love to trace, Steal from each year 'a melancholy grace!' And as the sparks of focial love expand, As the heart opens in a foreign land; And with a brother's warmth, a brother's fmile, 195 The stranger greets each native of his isle; So scenes of life, when present and confest, Stamp but their bolder features on the breaft; Yet not an image, when remotely view'd, However trivial, and however rude, 200 But wins the heart, and wakes the focial figh, With every claim of close affinity!

But these pure joys the world can never know: In gentler climes their filver currents flow. Oft at the filent, shadowy close of day, 205 When the hush'd grove has fung its parting lay: When penfive Twilight, in her dusky car, Slowly afcends to meet the evening-star; Above, below, aërial murmurs fwell, From hanging wood, brown heath, and bushy dell! 210 A thousand nameless rills, that shun the light, Stealing foft music on the ear of night. So oft the finer movements of the foul, That shun the sphere of Pleasure's gay controul, In the still shades of calm Seclusion rife,

E 2

And breathe their fweet, feraphic harmonies!

Once, and domestic annals tell the time,

(Preserv'd in Cumbria's rude, romantic clime)

When Nature smil'd, and o'er the landscape threw

Her richest fragrance, and her brightest hue, 220

A blithe and blooming Forester explor'd

Those nobler scenes Salvator's soul ador'd;

The rocky pass half hung with shaggy wood,

And the cleft oak slung boldly o'er the flood.

High on exulting wing the heath-cock rofe, 20 225

And blew his shrill blast o'er perennial snows;

When the rapt youth, recoiling from the roar,

Gaz'd on the tumbling tide of dread Lodoar;

And thro' the rifted cliffs, that scal'd the sky,

Derwent's clear mirror charm'd his dazzled eye. 21 230

Each ofier isle, inverted on the wave,

'Thro' morn's gray mist its melting colours gave;

And, o'er the cygnet's haunt, the mantling grove
Its emerald arch with wild luxuriance wove.

Light as the breeze that brush'd the orient dew, 235
From rock to rock the young adventurer flew;
And day's last sunshine slept along the shore,
When lo, a path the smile of welcome wore.
Imbowering shrubs with verdure veil'd the sky,
And on the musk-rose shed a deeper dye; 240
Save when a mild and momentary gleam
Glanc'd from the white soam of some shelter'd stream.

O'er the still lake the bell of evening toll'd,
And on the moor the shepherd penn'd his fold;
And on the green hill's side the meteor play'd; 245
When, hark! a voice sung sweetly thro' the shade.

250

It ceas'd—yet still in Florio's fancy sung,
Still on each note his captive spirit hung;
Till o'er the mead a cool, sequester'd grot
From its rich roof a sparry lustre shot.
A crystal water cross'd the pebbled floor,
And on the front these simple lines it bore:

Hence away, nor dare intrude!

In this fecret, shadowy cell

Musing Memory loves to dwell, 255

With her sister Solitude.

Far from the busy world she slies,

To taste that peace the world denies.

Entranc'd she sits; from youth to age,

Reviewing Life's eventful page; 260

And noting, ere they sade away,

The little lines of yesterday.

FLORIO had gain'd a rude and rocky feat,

When lo, the Genius of this still retreat!

Fair was her form—but who can hope to trace 265

The pensive softness of her angel-sace?

Can Virgil's verse, can Raphael's touch impart

Those siner seatures of the seeling heart,

Those tenderer tints that shun the careless eye,

And in the world's contagious circle die? 270

She left the cave, nor mark'd the stranger there;
Her pastoral beauty, and her artless air,
Had breath'd a soft enchantment o'er his soul!
In every nerve he felt her blest controul!
What pure and white-wing'd agents of the sky, 275
Who rule the springs of sacred sympathy,

Inform congenial spirits when they meet?

Sweet is their office, as their nature sweet!

FLORIO, with fearful joy, purfued the maid,
Till thro' a vista's moonlight-checquer'd shade, 280
Where the bat circled, and the rooks repos'd,
(Their wars suspended, and their counsels clos'd)
An antique mansion burst in awful state,
A rich vine clustering round its Gothic gate.
Nor paus'd he here. The master of the scene 285
Mark'd his light step imprint the dewy green;
And, slow-advancing, hail'd him as his guest,
Won by the honest warmth his looks express'd.
He wore the rustic manners of a 'Squire;
Age had not quench'd one spark of manly sire; 290

But giant Gout had bound him in her chain, And his heart panted for the chase in vain.

Yet here Remembrance, fweetly-foothing power!
Wing'd with delight Confinement's lingering hour.
'The fox's brufh still emulous to wear, 295
He fcour'd the county in his elbow-chair;
And, with view-halloo, rous'd the dreaming hound,
That rung, by starts, his deep-ton'd music round.

Long by the paddock's humble pale confin'd,

His aged hunters cours'd the viewless wind:

300

And each, with glowing energy pourtray'd,

The far-fam'd triumphs of the field display'd;

Usurp'd the canvas of the crowded hall,

And chas'd a line of heroes from the wall.

There slept the horn each jocund echo knew, 305

And many a smile and many a story drew!

High o'er the hearth his forest-trophies hung,

And their fantastic branches wildly slung.

How would he dwell on each vast antler there!

This dash'd the wave, that fann'd the mountain-air. 310

Each, as it frown'd, unwritten records bore,

Of gallant seats and sessions.

But why the tale prolong?—His only child,

His darling Julia on the stranger smil'd.

Her little arts a fretful sire to please,

Her gentle gaiety, and native ease,

Had won his soul—but ah! sew days had pass'd,

Ere his fond visions prov'd too sweet to last.

When evening ting'd the lake's ethereal blue,

And her deep shades irregularly threw;

320

Their shifting sail dropt gently from the cove,

Down by St. Herbert's consecrated grove;

22

Whence erst-the chanted hymn, the taper'd rite,

Amus'd the sisher's solitary night;

And still the mitred window, richly wreath'd, 325

A sacred calm thro' the brown soliage breath'd.

The wild deer, starting thro' the filent glade,
With fearful gaze, their various course survey'd.
High hung in air the hoary goat reclin'd,
His streaming beard the sport of every wind; 330
And, as the coot her jet-wing lov'd to lave,
Rock d on the bosom of the sleepless wave;

The eagle rush'd from Skiddaw's purple creft, A cloud still brooding o'er her giant-nest.

And now the moon had dimm'd, with dewy ray, 335

The few, fine flushes of departing day;

O'er the wide water's deep ferene she hung,

And her broad lights on every mountain flung;

When lo! a sudden blast the vessel blew, 23

And to the surge consign'd its little crew. 340

All, all escap'd—but ere the lover bore

His faint and saded Julia to the shore,

Her sense had sled!—Exhausted by the storm,

A fatal trance hung o'er her pallid form;

Her closing eye a trembling lustre fir'd;

'Twas life's last spark—it slutter'd and expir'd!

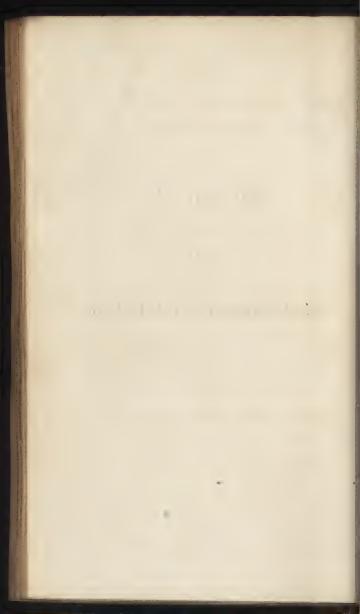
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Her souse had fled!

Published May 29th 1793, by T Cadell Strand .



The father strew'd his white hairs in the wind,
Call'd on his child—nor linger'd long behind:
And Florio liv'd to see the willow wave,
With many an evening-whisper, o'er their grave. 350
Yes, Florio liv'd—and, still of each posses,
The father cherish'd, and the maid cares'd!

For ever would the fond enthusiast rove,
With Julia's spirit thro' the shadowy grove;
Gaze with delight on every scene she plann'd, 355
Kiss every slowret planted by her hand.
Ah! still he trac'd her steps along the glade,
When hazy hues and glimmering lights betray'd
Half-viewless forms; still listen'd as the breeze
Heav'd its deep sobs among the aged trees; 360-

And at each pause her melting accents caught,
In sweet delirium of romantic thought!

Dear was the grot that shunn'd the blaze of day;
She gave its spars to shoot a trembling ray.

The spring, that bubbled from it's inmost cell, 365

Murmur'd of Julia's virtues as it fell;
And o'er the dripping moss, the fretted stone,
In Florio's ear breath'd language not its own.

Her charm around the enchantress Memory threw,
A charm that sooths the mind, and sweetens too! 370

But is Her magic only felt below?

Say, thro' what brighter realms she bids it flow;

To what pure beings, in a nobler sphere, 24

She yields delight but faintly imag'd here:

All that till now their rapt refearches knew, 375

Not call'd in flow fuccession to review;

But, as a landscape meets the eye of day,

At once presented to their glad survey!

Each fcene of blifs reveal'd, fince chaos fled,
And dawning light its dazzling glories fpread; 380
Each chain of wonders that fublimely glow'd,
Since first Creation's choral anthem flow'd;
Each ready flight, at Mercy's smile divine,
To distant worlds that undiscover'd shine;
Full on her tablet flings its living rays,
385
And all, combin'd, with blest effulgence blaze.

There thy bright train, immortal Friendship, foar; No more to part, to mingle tears no more! And, as the foftening hand of Time endears

The joys and forrows of our infant-years,

390

So there the foul, releas'd from human strife,

Smiles at the little cares and ills of life;

Its lights and shades, its sunshine and its showers;

As at a dream that charm'd her vacant hours!

Oft may the spirits of the dead descend, 395
To watch the filent slumbers of a friend;
To hover round his evening-walk unseen,
And hold sweet converse on the dusky green;
To hail the spot where first their friendship grew,
And heav'n and nature open'd to their view! 400
Oft, when he trims his cheerful hearth, and sees
A smiling circle emulous to please;

There may these gentle guests delight to dwell, And bless the scene they lov'd in life so well!

Oh thou! with whom my heart was wont to share 405 From Reason's dawn each pleasure and each care; With whom, alas! I fondly hop'd to know The humble walks of happiness below; If thy bleft nature now unites above An angel's pity with a brother's love. 410 Still o'er my life preserve thy mild controul, Correct my views, and elevate my foul; Grant me thy peace and purity of mind, Devout yet cheerful, active yet refign'd; Grant me, like thee, whose heart knew no disguise, 415 Whose blameless wishes never aim'd to rise.

To meet the changes Time and Chance prefent,

With modest dignity and calm content.

When thy last breath, ere Nature sunk to rest,

Thy meek submission to thy God express'd; 420

When thy last look, ere thought and feeling sled,

A mingled gleam of hope and triumph shed;

What to thy soul its glad assurance gave,

Its hope in death, its triumph o'er the grave?

The sweet Remembrance of unblemish'd youth, 425

The inspiring voice of Innocence and Truth!

Hail, Memory, hail! in thy exhaustless mine
From age to age unnumber'd treasures shine!
Thought and her shadowy brood thy call obey,
And Place and Time are subject to thy sway!

430
Thy pleasures most we feel, when most alone;
The only pleasures we can call our own.

Lighter than air, Hope's fummer-visions die,

If but a fleeting cloud obscure the sky;

If but a beam of sober Reason play,

Lo, Fancy's fairy frost-work melts away!

But can the wiles of Art, the grasp of Power,

Snatch the rich relics of a well-spent hour?

These, when the trembling spirit wings her slight,

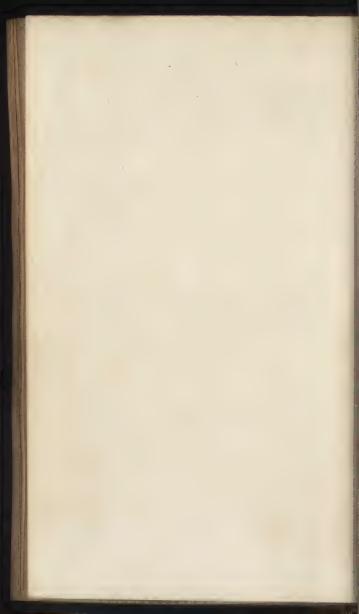
Pour round her path a stream of living light;

440

And gild those pure and perfect realms of rest,

Where Virtue triumphs, and her sons are blest!

THE END.



NOTES

ON THE

FIRST PART.

Note 1. Verse 201.

So, when the daring sons of science, &c.

HE wept; but the effort that he made to conceal his tears, concurred, with them, to do him honour: he went to the mast-head, waving to the canoes as long as they continued in fight.

HAWKESWORTH'S Voyages, ii. 181.

Another very affecting instance of local attachment is related of his fellow-countryman Potaveri, who came to Europe with M. de Bougainville.

See Les Jardins, par M. l'Abbé de Lille, chant ii.

Note 2. Verse 209.

So Scotia's Queen, &c.

Elle fe leve fur fon lict, & fe met à contempler la France encor, tant qu'elle peut.

Brantôme, tom. ii. p. 119.

Note 3. Verse 217.

As kindred objects kindred thoughts excite-

To an accidental affociation may be afcribed fome of the noblest efforts of human genius. The Historian of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire first conceived his design among the ruins of the Capitol; and to the tones of a Welsh harp are we indebted for the Bard of Gray. GIBBON'S Hist. xii. 432. Memoirs of Gray, sect. iv. let. 25.

Note 4. Verse 223.

For this Foscari, &c.

This young man was suspected of murder, and at Venice suspicion is good evidence. Neither the interest of the Doge, his father, nor the intrepidity of conscious innocence, which he exhibited in the dungeon and on the rack, could procure his acquittal. He was banished to the island of Candia for life.

But here his resolution failed him. At such a distance from home he could not live; and as it was a criminal offence to solicit the intercession of any foreign prince, in a sit of despair he addressed a letter to the Duke of Milan, and intrusted it to a wretch whose persidy, he knew, would occasion

his being remanded a prisoner to Venice. See Dr. Moore's View of Society in Italy, vol. i. let. 14.

Note 5. Verse 236.

And watch and weep in ELOISA's cell.

The Paraclete, founded by Abelard, in Champagne.

Note 6. Verse 237.

'Twas ever thus. As now at VIRGIL's tomb-

Vows and pilgrimages are not peculiar to the religious enthusiast. Silius Italicus persormed annual ceremonies on the mountain of Possilippo; and it was there that Boccaccio, quasi da un divino estro inspirato, resolved to dedicate his life to the muses. Note 7. Verse 239.

So Tully paus'd amid the wrecks of Time.

When Cicero was quæstor in Sicily, he discovered the tomb of Archimedes by its mathematical inscription.

Tusc. Quæst. 5. 3.

Note 8. Verse 253.

Say why the pensive widow loves to weep.

The influence of the affociating principle is finely exemplified in the faithful Penelope, when she sheds tears over the bow of Ulysses.

Od. xxi. 55.

Note 9. Verse 269.

If chance he hears the fong so sweetly wild—
The celebrated Ranz des Vaches; cet air si chéri

des Suisses qu'il fut désendu sous peine de mort de le jouer dans leurs troupes, parce qu'il faisoit sondre en larmes, déserter ou mourir ceux qui l'entendoient, tant il excitoit en eux l'ardent désir de revoir leur pays. Rousseau, Dictionnaire de Musique.

Note 10. Verse 274.

Say why VESPASIAN low'd his Sabine farm.

This emperor, according to Suetonius, conftantly passed the summer in a small villa near Reate, where he was born, and to which he would never add any embellishment; ne quid scilicet oculorum consuetudini deperiret.

Suer: in Vit. Vesp. cap. ii.

A fimilar inftance occurs in the life of the venerable Pertinax, as related by J. Capitolinus. Pofteaquam in Liguriam venit, multis agris coemptis, tabernam paternam, manente forma priore, infinitis ædificiis circundedit. Hist. August. 54.

An attachment of this nature is generally the characteristic of a benevolent mind; and a long acquaintance with the world cannot always extinguish it.

To a friend, fays John Duke of Buckingham, I will expose my weakness: I am oftener missing a pretty gallery in the old house I pulled down, than pleased with a saloon which I built in its stead, though a thousand times better in all respects. See his Letter to the D. of Sh.

This is the language of the heart; and will remind the reader of that good-humoured remark in one of Pope's letters—I should hardly care to have

an old post pulled up, that I remembered ever fince I was a child. Porm's Works, viii. 151.

The elegant author of Telemachus has illustrated this subject, with equal fancy and feeling, in the story of Alibée, Persan. See Recueil de Fables, composées pour l'Education d'un Prince.

Note 11. Verse 275.

Why great NAVARRE, &c.

That amiable and accomplished monarch, Henry the Fourth of France, made an excursion from his camp, during the long siege of Laon, to dine at a house in the forest of Folambray; where he had often been regaled, when a boy, with fruit, milk, and new cheese; and in revisiting which he promised himself great pleasure.

Memoires de Sully, tom. ii. p. 381.

Note 12. Verse 277.

When DIOCLETIAN'S felf-corrected mind-

Diocletian retired into his native province, and there amused himself with building, planting, and gardening. His answer to Maximian is deservedly celebrated. He was solicited by that restless old man to re-assume the reins of government, and the Imperial purple. He rejected the temptation with a smile of pity, calmly observing, that if he could shew Maximian the cabbages which he had planted with his own hands at Salona, he should no longer be urged to relinquish the enjoyment of happiness for the pursuit of power.

GIBBON, ii. 175.

Note 13. Verse 281.

Say, when ambitious CHARLES renounc'd a throne-

When the emperor Charles V. had executed his memorable resolution, and had set out for the monastery of St. Justus, he stopped a sew days at Ghent, says his historian, to indulge that tender and pleasant melancholy, which arises in the mind of every man in the decline of life, on visiting the place of his nativity, and viewing the scenes and objects samiliar to him in his early youth.

ROBERTSON'S Hist. iv. 256.

Note 14. Verse 305.

Then did his horse the homeward track descry.

The memory of the horse forms the ground-

work of a pleafing little romance of the twelfth century, entitled "The Gray Palfrey." See the Tales of the Trouveurs, as collected by M. Le Grand.

Ariosto likewise introduces it in a passage sull of truth and nature. When Bayardo meets Angelica in the forest,

----Va manfueto a la Donzella,

Ch' in Albracca il fervìa già di fua mano.

ORLANDO FURIOSO, canto i. 75.

Note 15. Verse 333.

Sweet bird! thy truth shall HARLEM's walls attest.

During the fiege of Harlem, when that city was reduced to the last extremity, and on the point of opening its gates to a base and barbarous enemy, a design was formed to relieve it; and the intelligence was conveyed to the citizens by a letter which was tied under the wing of a pigeon.

THUANUS, lib. lv. c. 5.

The fame meffenger was employed at the fiege of Mutina, as we are informed by the elder Pliny.

Hift. Nat. x. 37.

Note 16. Verse 342.

Hark! the bee, &c.

This little animal, from the extreme convexity of her eye, cannot fee many inches before her.

NOTES

ONTHE

SECOND PART.

Note 17. Verse 114.

Yet still how sweet the soothings of his art!

THE aftronomer chalking his figures on the wall, in Hogarth's view of Bedlam, is an admirable exemplification of this idea.

See the RAKE's PROGRESS, plate 8.

Note 18. Verse 173.

Hast thou thro' Eden's wild-wood vales pursued, &c.

On the road-fide, between Penrith and Appelby, stands a small pillar with this inscription:

"This pillar was erected in the year 1656, by Ann Countess Dowager of Pembroke, &c. for a memorial of her last parting, in this place, with her good and pious mother, Margaret, Countess Dowager of Cumberland, on the 2d of April, 1616: in memory whereof she hath left an annuity of 4l. to be distributed to the poor of the parish of Brougham, every 2d day of April for ever, upon the stone-table placed hard by. Laus Deo!"

The Eden is the principal river of Cumberland, and has its fource in the wildest part of Westmore-land.

Note 19. Verse 183.

Thus, with the manly glow of honest pride,
O'er his dead son old Ormond nobly sigh'd, &c.

Ormond bore the loss with patience and dignity: though he ever retained a pleasing, however melancholy, sense of the signal merit of Ossory. " I would not exchange my dead son," said he, " for any living son in Christendom." Hume, vi. 340.

The fame fentiment is infcribed on Mifs Dolman's urn at the Leafowes.

Heu, quanto minus est cum reliquis versari, quam tui meminisse!

Note 20. Verse 225.

High on exulting wing the heath-cock rose.

This bird, according to Mr. Pennant, is remarkable for his exultation during the fpring; when he calls the hen to his haunts with a loud and shrill

voice, and is so inattentive to his safety as to be easily shot.

Brit. Zoology, 266.

Note 21. Verse 230.

Derwent's clear mirror.

The Lake of Kefwick in Cumberland.

Note 22. Verse 322.

Down by St. Herbert's confecrated grove.

A fmall wooded island once dignified with a religious house.

Note 23. Verse 339.

When lo! a sudden blast the vessel blew.

In a lake, furrounded with mountains, the agitations are often violent and momentary. The winds blow in gufts and eddies; and the water no fooner fwells, than it fubfides.

See Bourn's Hift. of Westmoreland.

Note 24. Verse 373.

To what pure beings, in a nobler sphere, She yields delight but faintly imag'd here.

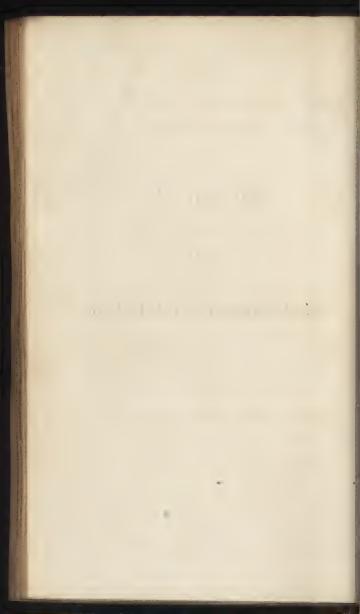
The feveral degrees of angels may probably have larger views, and fome of them be endowed with capacities able to retain together, and conftantly fet before them, as in one picture, all their past knowledge at once. Locke on Human Understanding, book ii. chap. x. 9.



O D E

T O

SUPERSTITION.



O D E

T O

SUPERSTITION.

I. I.

HENCE, to the realms of Night, dire Demon, ...

Thy chain of adamant can bind

That little world, the human mind,

And fink its noblest powers to impotence.

Wake the lion's loudest roar,

Clot his shaggy mane with gore,

With flashing fury bid his eye-balls shine;

Meek is his favage, sullen soul to thine!

Thy touch, thy deadening touch, has steel'd the breast, 1

Where, thro' her rainbow-shower, foft Pity smil'd;
Has clos'd the heart each godlike virtue blest,
To all the silent pleadings of his child.
At thy command he plants the dagger deep,
At thy command exults, tho' Nature bids him weep!

I. 2.

When, with a frown that froze the peopled earth, ²

Thou dartedft thy huge head from high,

Night wav'd her banners o'er the sky,

And, brooding, gave her shapeless shadows birth.

Rocking on the billowy air,

Ha! what withering phantoms glare!

As blows the blaft with many a fudden fwell,

At each dead paufe, what shrill-ton'd voices yell!

The sheeted spectre, rising from the tomb,

Points at the murderer's stab, and shudders by;

In every grove is felt a heavier gloom,

That veils its genius from the vulgar eye;

The spirit of the water rides the storm,

And, thro' its mist, reveals the terrors of his form.

I. 3.

O'er folid feas, where Winter reigns,

And holds each mountain-wave in chains,

The fur-clad favage, ere he guides his deer 3

By gliftering moon-light thro' the fnow,

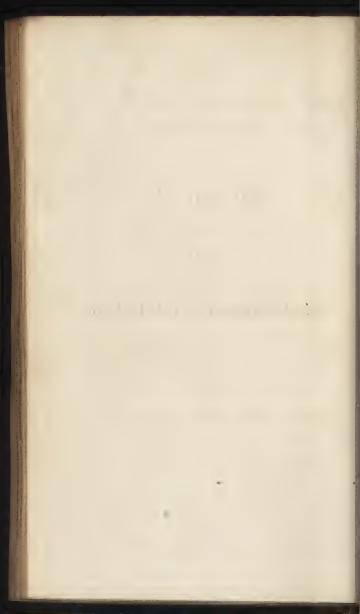
Breathes foftly in her wondering ear Each potent fpell thou badft him know. By thee inspir'd, on India's fands, 4 Full in the fun the Bramin stands; And, while the panting tigrefs hies To quench her fever in the stream. His fpirit laughs in agonies, 5 Smit by the fcorchings of the noontide beam. Mark who mounts the facred pyre, Blooming in her bridal vest: She hurls the torch! fhe fans the fire! To die is to be bleft: 6 She clasps her lord to part no more, And, fighing, finks! but finks to foar. O'ershadowing Scotia's desert coast, The Sisters fail in dusky state, 7



R Western del.

Wrafit in clouds, in temperts lost.

Published May, 29th 1793, by T. Cadell Strand.



And, wrapt in clouds, in tempets toft, Weave the airy web of fate;

While the lone shepherd, near the shipless main, 8. Sees o'er her hills advance the long-drawn suneral train.

II: I.

Thou spak'st, and lo! a new creation glow'd.

Each unhewn mass of living stone

Was clad in horrors not its own,

And at its base the trembling nations bow'd.

Giant Error, darkly grand,

Grasp'd the globe with iron hand.

Circled with seats of bliss, the Lord of Light

Saw prostrate worlds adore his golden height.

The statue, waking with immortal powers, 9

Springs from its parent earth, and shakes the spheres;

The indignant pyramid fublimely towers,

And braves the efforts of a host of years.

Sweet Music breathes her foul into the wind;

And bright-ey'd Painting stamps the image of the mind.

II. 2.

Round their rude ark old Egypt's forcerers rife!

A timbrell'd anthem fwells the gale,

And bids the God of Thunders hail; 10

With lowings loud the captive God replies.

Clouds of incense court thy smile,

Scaly monarch of the Nile! 11

But ah! what myriads claim the bended knee? 12

Go, count the busy drops that swell the sea.

Proud land! what eye can trace thy mystic lose,

Lock'd up in characters as dark as night? 13

What eye those long, long labyrinths dare explore, 14

To which the parted soul oft wings her slight;

Again to visit her cold cell of clay,

Charm'd with perennial sweets, and smiling at decay?

II. 3.

On you hoar fummit, mildly bright 15
With purple ether's liquid light,
High o'er the world, the white-rob'd Magi gaze
On dazzling burfts of heav'nly fire;
Start at each blue, portentous blaze,
Each flame that flits with adverse spire.
But say, what sounds my ear invade 16
From Delphi's venerable shade?
The temple rocks, the laurel waves!
"The God! the God!" the Sybil cries.

Her figure swells! she foams, she raves!

Her figure swells to more than mortal fize!

Streams of rapture roll along,

Silver notes ascend the skies:

Wake, Echo, wake and catch the fong,

Oh catch it, ere it dies.

The Sybil fpeaks, the dream is o'er,
The holy harpings charm no more.
In vain she checks the God's controul;
His madding spirit fills her frame,
And moulds the features of her soul,

Breathing a prophetic flame.

The cavern frowns! its hundred mouths unclose!

And, in the thunder's voice, the fate of empire flows.

III. 1.

Mona, thy Druid-rites awake the dead! Rites thy brown oaks would never dare Ev'n whisper to the idle air; Rites that have chain'd old Ocean on his bed. Shiver'd by thy piercing glance, Pointless falls the hero's lance. Thy magic bids the imperial eagle fly, 17 And mars the laureate wreath of victory. Hark, the bard's foul inspires the vocal string! At every paufe dread Silence hovers o'er: While murky Night fails round on raven-wing, Deepening the tempest's howl, the torrent's roar; Chas'd by the morn from Snowdon's awful brow, Where late she fat and fcowl'd on the black wave below.

III. . 2.

Lo, steel-clad War his gorgeous standard rears! The red-cross squadrons madly rage, 18 And mow thro' infancy and age; Then kiss the facred dust and melt in tears. Veiling from the eye of day, Penance dreams her life away; In cloister'd folitude she sits and fighs, While from each shrine still, small responses rife. Hear, with what heart-felt beat, the midnight bell Swings its flow fummons thro' the hollow pile! The weak, wan votarist leaves her twilight cell, To walk, with taper dim, the winding isle; With choral chantings vainly to aspire, Beyond this nether fphere, on Rapture's wing of fire.



111 1 1 The second second vn 14 the state of the s . - B and the second second the first



As, deister'd solitude she situ Esighs. While from each shrine still small responses rise?

Published May 29 th 1793, by T. Cadell Strand .



III. 3.

Lord of each pang the nerves can feel, Hence, with the rack and reeking wheel. Faith lifts the foul above this little ball! While gleams of glory open round, And circling choirs of angels call, Can'ft thou, with all thy terrors crown'd, Hope to obscure that latent spark, Destin'd to shine when suns are dark? Thy triumphs cease! thro' every land, Hark! Truth proclaims, thy triumphs cease: Her heav'nly form, with glowing hand, Benignly points to piety and peace. Flush'd with youth, her looks impart Each fine feeling as it flows;

Her voice the echo of her heart,

Pure as the mountain-fnows:

Celestial transports round her play,

And softly, sweetly die away.

She smiles! and where is now the cloud

That blacken'd o'er thy baleful reign?

Grim Darkness furls his leaden shroud,

Shrinking from her glance in vain.

Her touch unlocks the day-spring from above,

And lo! it visits man with beams of light and love.

THE END.

N O T E S

ON THE

ODE TO SUPERSTITION.

Note 1. Page 94.

Thy touch, thy deadening touch, &c.

An allusion to the facrifice of Iphigenia.

Note 2. Page 94.

When, with a frown that froze the peopled earth,

Thou dartedst thy huge head from high-

Humana ante oculos fœde cum vita jaceret

In terris oppressa gravi sub religione,

Quæ caput a cœli regionibus ostendebat,

Horribili super aspectu mortalibus instans, &c.

LUCRETIUS, 1. i. v. 63.

Note 3. Page 95.

The fur-clad savage, ere he guides his deer-

When we were ready to fet out, our host muttered some words in the ears of our cattle.

See a Voyage to the North of Europe in 1653.

Note 4. Page 96.

By thee inspir'd, on India's sands, &c.

The Bramins voluntarily expose their bodies to the intense heat of the sun.

Note 5. Page 96.

His spirit laughs in azonies.

Ridens moriar. The conclusion of an old Runic ode, preferved by Olaus Wormius.

Nоте 6. Page 96.

To die is to be bleft.

In the Bedas, or facred writings of the Hindoos, is this passage: "She, who dies with her husband, shall live for ever with him in heaven."

Note 7. Page 96.

The Sifters Sail in dusky state.

The Fates of the Northern Mythology. See Maller's Antiquities.

NOTE 8. Page 97.

While the lone shepherd, near the shipless main—

An allusion to the Second Sight.

Note 9. Page 97.

The statue, waking with immortal powers—

See that fine description of the sudden animation of the Palladium in the second book of the Eneid.

NOTE 10. Page 98.

And bids the God of Thunders hail.

The bull, Apis.

Note 11. Page 98.

Scaly monarch of the Nile!

The Crocodile.

Note 12. Page 98.

But ah! what myriads claim the bended knee?

So numerous were the Deities of Egypt, that, according to an ancient proverb, it was in that country less difficult to find a god than a man.

Note 13. Page 98.

Lock'd up in characters as dark as night.

The Hieroglyphics.

Note 14. Page 99.

Those long, long labyrinths-

The Catacombs, in which the bodies of the earliest generations yet remain without corruption, by virtue of the gums that embalmed them.

Note 15. Page 99.

On you hoar summit, mildly bright

"The Perfians," fays Herodotus, "reject the use of temples, altars, and statues. The tops of the highest mountains are the places chosen for facrifices." The elements, and more particularly Fire, were the objects of their religious reverence.

Note 16. Page 99.

But fay, what founds my ear invade-

An imitation of fome wonderful lines in the fixth book of the Æneid.

Note 17. Page 101.

Thy magic bids the imperial eagle fly.

See Tacitus, 1. xiv. c. 29.

Note is. Page 102.

The red-cross squadrons madly rage.

This remarkable event happened at the fiege and fack of Jerusalem, in the last year of the eleventh century, when the triumphant croifes, after every enemy was fubdued and flaughtered, immediately turned themselves, with the sentiments of humiliation and contrition, towards the holy fepulchre. They threw aside their arms, still streaming with blood: they advanced with reclined bodies, and naked feet and head, to that facred monument: they fung anthems to their Saviour who had purchased their falvation by his death and agony: and their devotion, enlivened by the presence of the place where he had fuffered, fo overcame their fury,

that they dissolved in tears, and bore the appearance of every foft and tender sentiment.

HUME I. 221.

THE SAILOR.

AN ELEGY.

THE Sailor fighs as finks his native shore,

As all its lessening turrets bluely fade;

He climbs the mast to feast his eye once more,

And busy Fancy fondly lends her aid.

Ah! now, each dear, domestic scene he knew, Recall'd and cherish'd in a foreign clime, Charms with the magic of a moonlight-view, Its colours mellow'd, not impair'd, by time. True as the needle, homeward points his heart,
'Thro' all the horrors of the ftormy main;
This, the last wish with which its warmth could part,
'To meet the smile of her he loves again.

When Morn first faintly draws her filver line,
Or Eve's gray cloud descends to drink the wave;
When sca and sky in midnight darkness join,
Still, still he views the parting look she gave.

Her gentle spirit, lightly hovering o'er,

Attends his little bark from pole to pole;

And, when the beating billows round him roar,

Whispers sweet hope to sooth his troubled soul.

Carv'd is her name in many a spicy grove,
In many a plantain-forest, waving wide;
Where dusky youths in painted plumage rove,
And giant-palms o'er-arch the yellow tide.

But lo, at last he comes with crowded fail!

Lo, o'er the cliff what eager figures bend!

And hark, what mingled murmurs swell the gale!

In each he hears the welcome of a friend.

—"Tis she, 'tis she herself! she waves her hand!
Soon is the anchor cast, the canvas surl'd;
Soon thro' the whitening surge he springs to land,
And class the maid he singled from the world.

V E R S E S

ON A

T E A R.

OH! that the Chemists magic art
Could crystallize this facred treasure!
Long should it glitter near my heart,
A secret source of pensive pleasure.

The little brilliant, ere it fell,

Its luftre caught from Chloe's eye;

Then, trembling, left its coral cell—

The fpring of Senfibility!

Sweet drop of pure and pearly light!

In thee the rays of Virtue shine;

More calmly clear, more mildly bright,

Than any gem that gilds the mine.

Benign reftorer of the foul
Who ever fly'st to bring relief,
When first she feels the rude controul
Of Love or Pity, Joy or Grief.

The fage's and the poet's theme,
In every clime, in every age;
Thou charm'st in Fancy's idle dream,
In Reason's philosophic page.

That very law* which moulds a tear,

And bids it trickle from its fource,

That law preferves the earth a fphere,

And guides the planets in their courfe.

* The law of Gravitation.

SKETCH

OF THE

ALPS AT DAY-BREAK.

THE fun-beams streak the azure skies,
And line with light the mountain's brow:
With hounds and horns the hunters rife,
And chase the roebuck thro' the snow.

From rock to rock, with giant-bound, High on their iron poles they pass; Mute, lest the air, convuls'd by sound, Rend from above a frozen mass*.

^{*} There are passes in the Alps, where the guides tell you to move on with speed, and say nothing, less the agitation of the air should loosen the snows above. GRAY, sect. v. let. 4.

The goats wind flow their wonted way,
Up craggy fleeps and ridges rude;
Mark'd by the wild wolf for his prey,
From defert cave or hanging wood.

And while the torrent thunders loud,
And as the echoing cliffs reply,
'The huts peep o'er the morning-cloud,
Perch'd, like an eagle's neft, on high.

W I S H.

MINE be a cot beside the hill;

A bee-hive's hum shall sooth my ear;

A willowy brook, that turns a mill,

With many a fall, shall linger near.

The fwallow, oft, beneath my thatch,
Shall twitter from her clay-built nest;
Oft shall the pilgrim lift the latch,
And share my meal, a welcome guest.

Around my ivied porch shall spring

Each fragrant flower that drinks the dew;

And Lucy, at her wheel, shall sing,

In russet gown and apron blue.

The village-church, among the trees,
Where first our marriage-vows were giv'n,
With merry peals shall swell the breeze,
And point with taper spire to heav'n.

AN

ITALIAN SONG.

DEAR is my little native vale,
The ring-dove builds and warbles there;
Close by my cot she tells her tale
To every passing villager.
The squirrel leaps from tree to tree,
And shells his nuts at liberty.

In orange-groves and myrtle-bowers,

That breathe a gale of fragrance round,

I charm the fairy-footed hours

With my lov'd lute's romantic found;

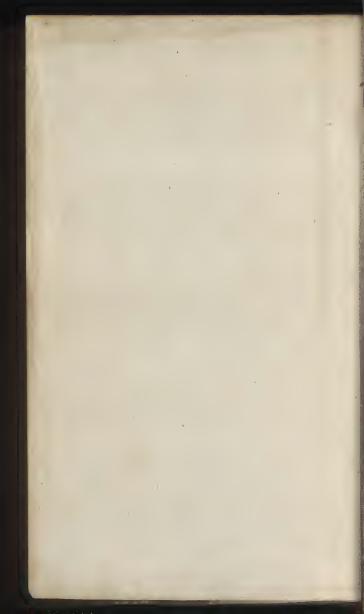
Or crowns of living laurel weave,

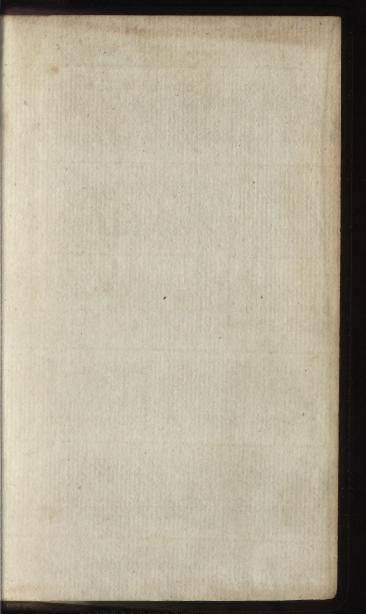
For those that win the race at eve.

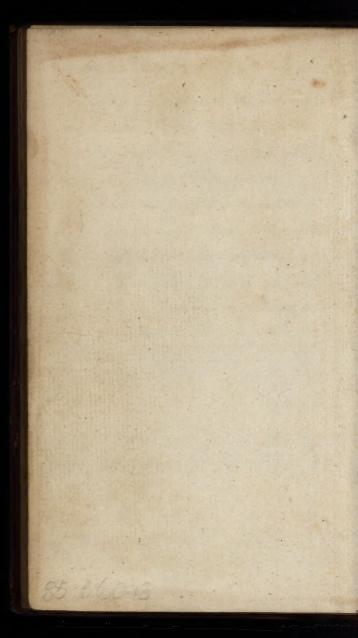
The shepherd's horn at break of day,
The ballet danc'd in twilight glade,
The canzonet and roundelay
Sung in the silent green-wood shade;
These simple joys, that never fail,
Shall bind me to my native vale.

THE END.









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